

0000056109

ORIGINAL

4760

January 26, 4000

RECEIVED

2004 FEB -3 P 3:36

Kristin K. Mayes, Commissioner
 Arizona Corporation Commission
 1200 - W. Washington St.
 Phoenix, Az. 85007

AZ CORP COMMISSION
 DOCUMENT CONTROL

Dear Kristin Mayes,

G-D1032E-03-0515

I recieved a shocking natural gas bill for the time period of 12/4/03 to 1/6/04. My firat impression was that it was an error, until I heard complaints from others for the same reason.

I compared the bill with last year's for the same time period, and the figures are as follows:

12/4/02 to 1/7/03	34 days	94 ccf	\$55.08
12/4/03 to 1/6/04	33 days	84 ccf	\$81.26

This is an increase of about 35%.

A few days later I recieved a letter from Unisource Energy stating that they have "exciting news" for their customers.

1. Significant benefits to their customers. How are we benefited by a gross increase in rates?
2. Three new investors listed whose support will reward the shareholders. That's fine, but if shareholders are rewarded--the benefits should sift down to the customers also. The letter states that the rates won't change. The rates were elevated before the letter was sent.
3. The last paragraph is humorous, as it states, "do not worry about behind the scene changes, as the service will remain the same." I have no complaints about the service, but the rates have already been changed and increased.

The bottom line seems to be more profits for the few at the expense of the many. This large increase is a huge hardship for many customers in this low income state.

The monthly increase of the gas bill is nearly twice my monthly income increase, and this is just one utility.

The commission needs to rethink this outrageous increase in gas rates, especially now that it's winter and gas usage is most important for warmth.

Sincerely,

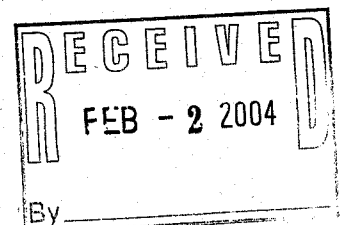
Claudia M. Copitas
 Claudia M. Copitas

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

FEB 03 2004

DOCKETED BY

CM

cc: Mike Gleason, Commissioner
William Mundell, Commissioner
Jeff Hatch-Miller, Commissioner
Kristin K. Mayes, Commissioner